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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,913	06/04/2004	Leslie Fernandes	57640.010272	3912
34018	7590	11/16/2005	EXAMINER	
GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP			CYGAN, MICHAEL T	
77 WEST WACKER DRIVE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 2500				2855
CHICAGO, IL 60601-1732				

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/709,913	FERNANDES ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael Cygan	Art Unit 2855	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 24-30 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 11-23 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 June 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/13/04</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: the word "pas" should be spelled "pad" at line 1 of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lancaster (US 4,750,189). Lancaster teaches, for a metal duct for the transport of hot pressurized air, the duct having a layer of insulation [12] wrapped therearound, a cuff [17] which is made of flexible material (Figures 4 and 5 show that the outer cuff material is bendable to provide a snug tongue-and-groove latch which acts to compress the gasket to form a seal), a void [16] created between cuff [17] and insulation [13] (see Figure 6), and a hole in the cuff [25] which is in fluid communication with the void [16]. A pad [22] is bonded to the interior of the cuff and bounds the insulation [12] over a portion, and does not touch

the insulation at a different portion which is near the center of the cuff (where the hole [25] is placed); see Figures 3 and 6. The cuff is placed over a circumferential cut through the insulation shell (Figure 6). See entire document.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayes (US 5,067,094). Hayes teaches, for a metal duct for the transport of hot pressurized air, the duct having a layer of insulation [30] wrapped therearound, a cuff [42] which is made of flexible steel, a void created between cuff [42] and insulation [30] (see Figure 2), and a hole in the cuff (at the points where thermocouples 34,36, and 38 extend through the cuff to touch the inner pipe [18]) which is in fluid communication with the void. See entire document.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lancaster (US 4,750,189). Lancaster teaches the claimed invention except for the claimed materials. However, the use of silicon rubber gaskets having the claimed durometer range and the use of fiberglass/silicon rubber cuffs is of notorious character in the leak art, and, absent some showing of unexpected advantages specific to the combination, would therefore have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lancaster (US 4,750,189) in view of Brunet (US 6,799,452 B2). Lancaster teaches the claimed invention except for the cuff having a raised middle portion. Brunet teaches a cuff for a leak detection purpose having a raised middle portion (Figure 1). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a raised middle portion as taught by Brunet in the invention taught by

Lancaster, since this is shown by Brunet to result in a structurally strong cuff (column 1 lines 34-38).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 24-30 are allowed.

7. Claims 11-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cygan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2175. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6 M-Th, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2855

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MICHAEL CYGAN, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER